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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

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POST GRADUATE COURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.—In addition to the regular six weeks' summer course at Teachers College, three new post graduate courses are being offered to public health nurses this summer. The University of California is repeating its successful six weeks' course given for the first time last summer, under the direction of Cecilia Evans, director of the course in public health nursing at Western Reserve University. Miss Evans is to be in charge of the course in California again this year. The University of Washington is offering a ten weeks' course to the nurses of Seattle and the surrounding country, which is to be under the direction of Barbara H. Bartlett, a graduate of the course in public health nursing at Teachers College, and temporarily released from her duties in the Children's Bureau for this new work in the far west. Springfield, Illinois, under the auspices of the Illinois State Anti-Tuberculosis Association, is also offering a summer course, to be under the direction of Eleanor Gillespie, field supervisor with Miss Evans in Cleveland.

The need for public health nurses throughout the country was never greater, and although to some nurses the time and expense involved in taking these intensive courses seem inadvisable just now, in the long run they prove the shortest road to efficient service, whether in France, cantonment zones, or the home field. The School of Social Economy, Richmond, Va., has just finished a most successful four months' course in public health nursing which was organized under the direction of Mrs. Bessie Amerman Haasis, educational secretary for the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. The School of Civics and Philanthropy in Chicago has given a similar course to sixteen nurses during the past four months, Elnora Thomson, Illinois Society for Mental Hygiene, director. The Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Society, under the auspices of the extension department of the University of Wisconsin, is continuing its summer course in public health nursing under the direction of Edith Swaine, formerly with the Chicago Visiting Nurse Association. Doubtless, other courses are being planned throughout the country, with which the editor of this department is not familiar, but surely each course which is closing or opening during the coming month is significant of the times and the need felt by every graduate nurse for better,

more intensive preparation before entering the field of community nursing.

KANSAS—The Public Health Nursing Association of Topeka, Mary Larson, superintendent, has just opened its first baby clinic, which promises to be most successful. Two rooms centrally located and simply furnished have been secured, and the first two conferences were very well attended. Topeka is also offering training in visiting nursing for pupil nurses from the different hospitals in the city.

EL DORADO.—The town and county school nursing instituted in El Dorado County last winter by two Red Cross nurses from Chicago, Edith E. Lindquist of the staff of the Chicago Health Department and Mary Darr of the Visiting Nurse Association, has succeeded until the townspeople of El Dorado have decided to form a visiting nurse association of their own, consequently the county position held by Miss Darr will be filled by Walborg Zetterwold of the Chicago Visiting Nurse Association, and Miss Darr will undertake the work of organizing the first Visiting Nurse Association in El Dorado. The interest of the townspeople is indicated, perhaps, by the fact that at their first meeting to discuss this new venture, \$3600 for its support during the first year was raised and a motor promised for the nurse's transportation. El Dorado is a typical oil town, a year ago it had about 3000 inhabitants, now there are 18,000. A great many of the newcomers are still living in canvas tents and they managed to exist in them all last winter, in spite of the extreme cold. The experiences, both in the town and the country, are sufficiently new and varied to satisfy the pioneer spirit of any nurse. They also make previous experience and training in public health work absolutely essential if the work is going to be of the utmost service to the people whom it is intended to reach. The success of the first two pioneers in less than six months made the work of the third nurse necessary, and a fourth nurse is desired.

ILLINOIS.—The Infant Welfare Society of Chicago (Sadie B. Place, Illinois Training School, acting superintendent), has just closed a most successful Baby Week Welfare Station. This is the second time that a down-town station has been attempted, and the results for both years demonstrate not only the feasibility but the desirability of making this an annual affair. Excellent publicity was secured in the newspapers through the coöperation of the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund; the use of a good-sized store with four large show windows and two entrances was given free of charge. The committees from the different supported centers provided the motor busses or volunteers paid for the transportation of babies coming from not specially supported stations, and the amount of money

donated by passers-by more than met all the remaining expenses. Twelve conferences were held, one every morning and one every afternoon, and from twenty to twenty-five mothers were brought down in motor busses from the regular conferences. The nurses notified the mothers in advance, in order that there might be at each conference several types of babies, breast fed, bottle fed, those under supervision but a short time, and those that had been carried for several months. Scales for weighing the babies and tables for examining them were placed near the show windows and the daily attendance of visitors averaged from 150 to 200, while the crowds outside the windows made it necessary for the hurried pedestrian to step into the street in order to pass by.

The walls in the windows and around the room were decorated with dozens of large photographs of babies taken singly and in groups, instruction charts and posters were attractively displayed, potted plants were placed wherever there were bare corners, and the whole room had a most gay and festive appearance. A number of new babies were brought in by their mothers at each conference, and for these the Government weighing and measuring cards only were used. Their names and addresses were taken, however, for future visiting, if they lived in the neighborhood of any infant welfare station.

The impression made on the general public is difficult to estimate, but probably thousands of people have been made aware of the fact that the baby is a problem to be reckoned with during this great struggle. The effect on the mothers is more easily seen. This annual pilgrimage is an event in their lives, it gives an added significance to their own position as mothers, and it enormously increases the baby's importance in even his mother's estimation of him. At first, a lecture by well known physicians was planned to take place immediately after each conference, but this did not prove practical as the babies were tired and the mothers were ready to go home, and but very few outsiders came in for the lectures, the living exhibit having proved so much more interesting. So, after the first two days, this was abandoned. During the same week, daily lectures were given in one of the large department stores by Dr. Caroline Hedger, on Child Welfare, and constant emphasis was placed on the value of the conservation of childhood in various meetings held all over Chicago.

The Infant Welfare down-town station, however, is something which could easily be copied in any city of any size. If babies and their mothers can be safely motored through the dense crowds which fill some of Chicago's narrow streets, and if a conference can be established with as little confusion in a down-town store as in an out-

lying settlement, the extra work involved is more than worth while, because the interest of a great many people who might otherwise never hear of the work being done in infant welfare, is so easily aroused. Plenty of volunteers and the coöperation of one's medical and nursing staff, and the willingness to put in a good deal of over-time work make such an exhibit not only possible but very much worth while.

The annual report of the Infant Welfare Society for the year 1917 has in it the following significant paragraph from the superintendent's address:

Because nurses are prone to believe that everyone but a nurse may be a patient, it was found necessary to require a thorough physical examination at least once a year, of all nurses on our staff. We ask that nurses be weighed every month and in this way we have a health indication which we feel has worked for a better health condition, inasmuch as we have had no serious ill-health situation this year.

The physical examination of institutional and public health nurses is a problem which faces every superintendent and every agency sooner or later. The Infant Welfare Society seems to have cut the Gordian knot by its present method. It has been our experience, however, that most nurses object strongly to physical examinations, whether they need them or not. It would be interesting to conduct through this department a symposium on the question of physical examinations for public health nurses, their feasibility, their frequency, the reasons pro and con. Won't every nurse interested in the subject write her opinion and send it to the editor of this department, who promises to give it careful consideration and publish it, if possible.

Community nurses who are asked to organize infant welfare nursing are advised to write for the annual reports of the Infant Welfare Society. There are few, if any, reports of more practical and educational assistance published in the country. Directors, superintendents and staff nurses as well as nurses working alone will find the reports of the president, the women's auxiliary, the superintendent, the medical director and the educational secretary of special significance and help.

GERMANY'S WAR ON THE WOUNDED

German airplanes recently bombed a large American hospital. Hovering at low altitudes, every effort was made to hit the main building, which was conspicuously marked with the Red Cross emblem. Doctors and nurses removed our wounded boys to trenches previously dug for such emergencies. National War Savings Day gives an opportunity to register in a practical way your vow that such things must end.